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November 18, 2020

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community;

I am sorry to inform you that the Cleveland Hill School District will shift to fully remote learning for all students effective Monday, November 23, 2020. While it brings sadness for all of us, this move is necessary as a result of today's announcement by Governor Cuomo that Cleveland Hill has been designated as an Orange Zone under his Micro-Cluster Initiative. We will assess our Zone Designation weekly, and keep everyone informed regarding our return to in-person learning.

The factors of our move to remote learning, and the requirements in returning to in-person learning in an Orange Zone, are important. Being declared into a Orange Zone brings with its rigorous testing requirements to reopen, placing a significant public health mandate on schools. Over the next 1-2 weeks, we hope to receive our licensing to administer COVID-19 testing. In an attempt to return to "in-person" learning, we will finalize our testing plan and assess the feasibility of our capacity to meet the rigorous testing requirements that include;

- Testing 100% of all in-person students and staff prior to the first week of in-person learning, and
- Test 25% of all in-person students and staff each week until the school is no longer in an Orange Zone
- If still in the Orange Zone, deny re-entry to all who chose not to participate in testing (both students and staff).

Your building principals and teachers will provide specific information and details to you for this shift to fully remote instruction shortly. **Please know that attendance in remote learning is of vital importance and effective participation will ALWAYS lead to greater success.** That being said, it is expected that your child attends every remote learning session offered, for the full duration. The students who are presently struggling in our remote learning model is largely due to their nonparticipation and poor attendance. As always, we ask all parents/guardians to monitor their child's attendance and participation closely.

We know the strain that this shift will place on many of our families. Please reach out to your child's teacher, counselor or administrator if there is anything that you feel that we can do to assist you or your child in making this transition. We are here to support you.

I want to close with expressing my sincere appreciation for everything that our students, faculty, staff and parents have done to support the Cleveland Hill school community over the recent weeks and months. We have completely reimagined education and implemented teaching and learning strategies that would have been considered impossible just months ago.

As a community, we have faithfully followed the requirements of masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene, monitoring of symptoms and all of the other measures that we have taken to ensure that school is a safe place to learn and work. I am confident that we will return to in-person learning just as safely.

As we experience the next phase of this challenge together, I will continue to work with public health officials and will provide you with frequent updates regarding the status of our return to in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jon MacSwan
Superintendent of Schools